

# MARBLE HILL FACES NEW LYONS THREAT

## Bronx Fuehrer Seizes Upon Taxing Power in Attempt to Force Anschluss

### 13 NOW PAYING 'TRIBUTE'

## Discovery That Group on the 'Border' Pays Lower Levy Is Latest Diplomatic Move

Bronx Fuehrer James J. Lyons, whose past efforts to annex Marble Hill to the Bronx met with opposition from the Marble Hill residents, made a last desperate bid yesterday for peaceful anschluss with the thirty-five-acre Sudetenland on the Harlem, which the changing course of the murky river placed in Manhattan politically and in the Bronx geographically.

It was a bold stroke, aimed directly at the pocketbooks of Marble Hill property owners.

Bronx tax examiners and engineers, at the behest of the Fuehrer, have been investigating secretly the status of the community since its harassed 5,000 burghers met the last Lyons putsch with a classic assortment of Bronx cheers. Yesterday they made known an amazing discovery.

Although Marble Hill is legally in Manhattan, for a number of years thirteen property owners in the area have been paying their real estate tax to the Bronx. Thus, the examiners pointed out, the property owners have been spared considerable sums in taxes, since the Bronx tax rate is lower than that of Manhattan.

Flaunting his discovery in the faces of the thirteen owners, the Bronx Fuehrer threatened to take the matter up with the Tax Department unless the Marble Hill citizens acquiesce to anschluss. Practiced observers noted a close similarity to modern European diplomacy.

In an aside to his assistant, Miss Eunice Gulick, the Fuehrer remarked that he was leaving the door several feet open. If the Marble Hill citizens make a volte-face, not a word will be said to the Tax Department. Furthermore, the Borough President pointed out, the fact that the Bronx tax rate is the lowest in the city should be enough inducement to make all Marble Hill property owners want to become part of the "Borough of Universities."

The report that thirteen parcels of Manhattan property were paying tax levies in the Bronx was made by Edward J. Gallagher, an examiner in Mr. Lyons's office.

With the northerly low water mark of the old Spuyten Duyvil Creek separating Marble Hill from the Bronx, the thirteen parcels of property, facing on Exterior Street from West 225th Street to Broadway and on West 230th Street from Broadway to Marble Hill Avenue, are clearly in Manhattan and rightfully taxable there, according to Mr. Lyons.

"To err is human, to forgive divine," the Bronx Fuehrer declared pontifically yesterday in discussing his latest coup. "I forgive the Marble Hill populace for everything they said about the Bronx when I last proposed annexation. I even forgive the boys who jeered when I entered the territory and planted the flag of the Bronx on the highest summit.

"The residents of Marble Hill are good, fine people, hard-working and earnest. Some people have to be civilized against their will. But I don't think that will be the case with the Marble Hill residents. As soon as other property owners see what the thirteen lucky ones have been getting, as soon as they realize that the Bronx tax rate is the lowest of any of the five boroughs, that the Bronx is the 'Borough of Universities and Parks' and that it is a place of beauty and culture, they will come of their own free will.

"On the other hand"—

The Bronx Fuehrer smiled an enigmatic smile. It suggested sterner measures.